MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Legal Remembrancer to Government*): Number of debtors who paid the first instalment of debts 51,575

	Rs.	Chs.	C.
Total amount of the payments made	14,48,236	22	6

Working of the Debt Relief Act in the District Courts.

323. ❋ **MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Mavelikara cum Kunnathur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of petitions filed under Section 9 of the Debt Relief Act (Acts II and III of 1116) in each of the District Courts in the State;

(*b*) the number of petitions filed under Sections 13 and 16 of the above Acts in each of the District Courts in the State; and

(*c*) the number of petitions filed under Sections 9, 13 and 16 of the Act II of 1116 as amended by Act III of 1116 after the 31st of Kumbhom and before the 21st of Edavom during 1116 M. E. in each of the District Courts?

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: (*a*) (*b*) and (*c*) A *statement showing the information required is laid on the table.

Sea fishing and Churches.

324. ❋**MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMANKUNJU**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is compulsory that the sea fisherman should give 1/18th of his catches daily to the Church in the village, and the Church collect the same by leasing out the right in the village to contractors by auction annually; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, the amount annually realised by the various Churches along the coast by selling the right during the years 1114, 1115 and 1116?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: (*a*) Government have no definite information though statements relating to the collection by priests of a portion of the catches have been made in various communications.

(*b*) Government have no information.

MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMANKUNJU: ഇതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു് അന്വേഷിക്കാൻ മേലുണ്ടാകുമോ?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: If complaints are received, enquiries can be made.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): May I know whether this practice is prevalent throughout the whole coastal area of the State or in only some parts?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: Sir, the allegation is that certain portions of the catches are given for the church by the fishermen. Where the practice prevails and among whom has to be ascertained.

PRESIDENT: It is apparently a voluntary payment by the fisher folk. The fish goes to the church as some presentation to the Parson, as they say.

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MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I take it that there is no liability and nobody is bound to give?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: Government have not imposed any liability.

PRESIDENT: As is well known historically, the Christian church had an institution known as Tithes, *i.e.*, 10% of certain things to be handed over to the church. Similarly, probably from centuries back, there had been the practice of collecting a proportion of the catch as soon as boats come in.

MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, the question is not whether the Christian fisher folk make this contribution but generally all the fishermen of the coast, including, of course, the Hindus, are made to contribute. That is the significance of the question.

PRESIDENT: I did not know that. But enquiries will be made.

MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMANKUNJU: മത്സ്യ വ്യവസായികളിൽ നിന്നും സമുദായപ്രമാണികൾ ആദായം വസൂൽ ചെയ്യരുതെന്നു ൻൻ൦ കക്കടകം ഫ-ാംനു- ഒരു തിരുവെഴുത്തു വിളംബരം ഉള്ളതായി അറിയാമോ?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: I am not aware of any such Proclamation, Sir.

MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kunnathur*): May I know whether the collection is compulsory?

PRESIDENT: How can there be any compulsory exaction unless by a statute or rule?

MR. KAINIKARA M. PADMANABHA PILLAI (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): Sir, by coercion.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): ഹിന്തുക്കളായ മത്സ്യ വ്യവസായികളിൽനിന്നും ആദായം വാങ്ങിച്ചുകൊണ്ടിരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: Government have no information.

MR. KOTTALIL P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Devicolam*): May I know whether there was any complaint from the fishermen?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: No such complaints were received.

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI (*Tovala* cum *Agastisvaram*): May I know whether the honourable member is aware that as a result of this practice numerous cases both criminal and civil are still pending in the Law Courts?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: I have no such information.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): May I know the nature of the allegations?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: The allegations arise incidentally in proposals regarding the improvement of the fishermen's trade or their economic condition and matters of a general nature which will contribute to their welfare.

MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN: May I know whether any steps are taken to enquire into those allegations?

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DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: It is under consideration.

MR. PADIYARA JOSEPH KUNJU: പതിനെട്ടിൽ ഒരു ഭാഗം ... ...

MR. M. SIVATHANU PILLAI: Sir, Mr. Joseph Kunju has availed himself of the one chance.

PRESIDENT: Yes. He cannot put further questions.

Right of Church on the coastal villages to the fins of shark.

325. ❋ MR. CODIVEETIL C. RAMANKUNJU: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether it is a right of the church in the coastal village to claim the fins of shark caught by the sea fishermen; and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the quantity and value of the fins annually collected by the various churches during the past three years?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: (*a*) Government have no definite information though such allegations have been made.

(*b*) Government have no information.

MR. K. G. GOVINDAN (*Pathanamthitta*): May I know whether any allegation has been received from Hindu fishermen?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: I claim notice, Sir.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know whether in any event, Government will be pleased to consider this question and come to a decision at an early date?

DR. K. L. MOUDGILL: Yes, Sir. Government will look into the matter with reference to the statements that have been made in this House.

Pullickal Thodu in Mavelikara.

326. ❋ MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have taken steps in deepening the channel called Pullickal Thodu in the Mavelikara taluk;

(*b*) if so, the amount spent till this time;

(*c*) whether a portion of this channel near Bharanikavu has been covered by earth by some people;

(*d*) whether they have received any representations from the people complaining against such conduct; and

(*e*) if so, the action taken on the same?

MR. I. C. CHACKO (*Executive Engineer in charge of the duties of the Chief Engineer*): (*a*) A portion of the thodu was once improved. Further improvements have not been taken up as the ryots are unwilling to pay cess.

(*b*) Rs. 3,063-5-12.

(*c*) and (*d*) The channel is silted up but no representation has been received alleging this to have been wilfully done by some people.

(*e*) Does not arise in view of the answer to (*c*) and (*d*) supra.

MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether anything was done to remove the silting up of the channel?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: It is contained in the answer. It was removed at a cost of Rs. 3,000.

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